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(Original Signature of Member)

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CUNNINGHAM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an
Office of Men's Health.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Men’s Health Act of
3 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) There is a silent health crisis affecting the
7 health and well-being of America’s men.

8 (2) This health crisis is of particular concern to
9 men, but is also a concern for women, and especially
10 to those who have fathers, husbands, sons, and
11 brothers.

12 (3) Men’s health is likewise a concern for em-
13 ployers who lose productive employees as well as pay
14 the costs of medical care, and is a concern to state
15 government and society which absorb the enormous
16 costs of premature death and disability, including
17 the costs of caring for dependents left behind.

18 (4) The life expectancy gap between men and
19 women has steadily increased from one year in 1920
20 to seven years in 1990.

21 (5) Almost twice as many men than women die
22 from heart disease, and 28.5 percent of all men die
23 as a result of stroke.

24 (6) In 1995, blood pressure of black males was
25 356 percent higher than that of white males, and

1 the death rate for stroke was 97 percent higher for
2 black males than for white males.

3 (7) The incidence of stroke among men is 19
4 percent higher than for women.

5 (8) Significantly more men than women are di-
6 agnosed with AIDS each year.

7 (9) Fifty percent more men than women die of
8 cancer.

9 (10) Although the incidence of depression is
10 higher in women, the rate of life-threatening depres-
11 sion is higher in men, with men representing 80 per-
12 cent of all suicides cases, and with men 43 times
13 more likely to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals
14 than women.

15 (11) Prostate cancer is the most frequently di-
16 agnosed cancer in the United States among men, ac-
17 counting for 36 percent of all cancer cases.

18 (12) An estimated 180,000 men will be newly
19 diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone, of
20 which 37,000 will die.

21 (13) Prostate cancer rates increase sharply with
22 age, and more than 75 percent of such cases are di-
23 agnosed in men age 65 and older.

1 (14) The incidence of prostate cancer and the
2 resulting mortality rate in African American men is
3 twice that in white men.

4 (15) Studies show that men are at least 25 per-
5 cent less likely than women to visit a doctor, and are
6 significantly less likely to have regular physician
7 check-ups and obtain preventive screening tests for
8 serious diseases.

9 (16) Appropriate use of tests such as prostate
10 specific antigen (PSA) exams and blood pressure,
11 blood sugar, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction
12 with clinical exams and self-testing, can result in the
13 early detection of many problems and in increased
14 survival rates.

15 (17) Educating men, their families, and health
16 care providers about the importance of early detec-
17 tion of male health problems can result in reducing
18 rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well
19 as improve the health of America's men and its over-
20 all economic well-being.

21 (18) Recent scientific studies have shown that
22 regular medical exams, preventive screenings, reg-
23 ular exercise, and healthy eating habits can help
24 save lives.

1 (19) Establishing an Office of Men's Health is
2 needed to investigate these findings and take such
3 further actions as may be needed to promote men's
4 health.

5 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE MEN'S HEALTH.**

6 Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42
7 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
8 the following section:

9 "OFFICE OF MEN'S HEALTH

10 "SEC. 1711. The Secretary shall establish within the
11 Department of Health and Human Services an office to
12 be known as the Office of Men's Health, which shall be
13 headed by a director appointed by the Secretary. The Sec-
14 retary, acting through the Director of the Office, shall co-
15 ordinate and promote the status of men's health in the
16 United States.'".